

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 04971 231538Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----240222Z 057109 /14

R 231427Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3080
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4971

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, EG, XA
SUBJECT: FONMIN FAHMY'S COMMENTS ON AFRICA

1. IN DISCUSSION THIS MORNING FONMIN FAHMY ONCE AGAIN
RAISED WITH ME EGYPTIAN CONCERN OVER SOVIET STRATEGY
IN AFRICA. HE CALLED MY ATTENTION TO TWO NEW
DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HE FELT WERE IMPORTANT.

2. ETHIOPIA. FAHMY THOUGHT SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA
WAS DETERIORATING AS RESULT OF CASTRO'S VISIT AND AS
EVIDENCED BY RECENT STATEMENTS FROM ADDIS ABABA
BY MENGISTU AND OTHERS. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT ATTENDANCE
OF SOMALIA PRESIDENT SIAD AT TAIZ SUMMIT MEETING
WOULD SHOW A DESIRE BY SOMALIA TO MOVE AWAY
FROM SOVIETS AND TO JOIN IN EGYPTIAN-SPONSORED RED SEA
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SECURITY PLAN, THUS ISOLATING ETHIOPIA.

3. 5-POWER CONFERENCE ON SAHARA. SECOND NEW
DEVELOPMENT WHICH CONCERNED FAHMY WAS THE 5-POWER
CONFERENCE ON SAHARA WITH ATTENDANCE BY LIBYA, ALGERIA,
NIGER, CHAD AND MALI. HERE AGAIN FAHMY SAW LIBYA ACTING
AS SOVIET AGENT IN STIRRING UP TROUBLE IN AFRICA.

4. LIBYA. IN DISCUSSING LIBYA FAHMY SAID THAT DURING HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE YESTERDAY SEVERAL MEMBERS HAD PRESSED HIM ABOUT WHY EGYPT HAD DONE NOTHING TO RETALIATE AGAINST LIBYA FOR ITS SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT. FAHMY SAID THAT SEVERAL MORE LIBYAN-RECRITED EGYPTIANS HAD TURNED THEMSELVES IN TO POLICE YESTERDAY SAYING THAT LIBYA HAD SENT THEM TO PLANT EXPLOSIVES IN EGYPT. PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS URGED THAT EGYPT RETALIATE AGAINST LIBYA, BUT FAHMY SAID IT WAS AGAINST EGYPT'S POLICY TO PLANT EXPLOSIVES THAT WOULD HARM INNOCENT PEOPLE. FAHMY SAID HE TOLD PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS THAT EGYPT WOULD TAKE ACTION AGAINST QADAFFI WHEN THE PROPER TIME CAME.

5. FAHMY REPEATED THAT SADAT WOULD SEEK NEW US ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET DESIGNS ON AFRICA DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. I SAID I WOULD REPORT HIS CONCERNS ONCE AGAIN TO DEPARTMENT.
MATTHEWS

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